United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns military coup in Burundi; demands that perpetrators reveal whereabouts of Government officials and permit immediate restitution of democracy.

+ Security Council warns military authorities in Haiti that it will consider extra measures beyond oil and arms embargo if Governors Island Agreement is not implemented; calls for departure of Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces and appointment of new police Commander.

+ Secretary-General expected to return to New York tonight after two-day stay in United Kingdom, following visit to Africa; is received by Queen Elizabeth II and meets with Prime Minister and Opposition leader, as well as with Russian Foreign Minister.

+ Secretary-General, in message to General Assembly plenary meeting on combatting illicit drugs, says drug abuse equals threat of damage to environment, AIDS or poverty; Assembly President says international community's success in tackling drug problem is crucial test of post-cold-war cooperation.

+ Secretary-General seeks suspension of humanitarian convoys in central Bosnia and Herzegovina until yesterday's attack on UNHCR convoy is investigated and safety guarantees received from warring parties.

+ General Assembly proclaims 1994 as International Year of Sport; urges Member States to observe "Olympic Truce" for one week before and after Olympic Games.

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The Security Council last night condemned last Thursday's military coup that deposed the democratically-elected Government of Burundi. In a statement read out by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council

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strongly condemned the acts of violence and the loss of life caused by the perpetrators of the coup and demanded that they desist from taking any action which would worsen the tension and plunge the country into more violence and bloodshed. It also demanded that they reveal the whereabouts and fate of Government officials, release all prisoners, and end their illegal act in order to bring about the immediate restitution of democracy and constitutional rule in Burundi.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to monitor the situation closely and expressed appreciation for his dispatch of a Special Envoy to Burundi. It also paid tribute to the deceased President of Burundi, Melchior Ndadaye, and members of his Government for their "supreme sacrifice for democracy". It said those responsible for their violent deaths should be brought to justice.

In a related development, Under-Secretary-General James Jonah will leave Mogadishu tomorrow for Burundi, as an Envoy of the Secretary-General, "to assist the parties in returning the country to constutional legality", according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said yesterday that at least $3 million to $4 million would be required initially to meet the emergency needs of the more than 300,000 refugees who had fled Burundi. The influx into Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire was expected to increase, and UNHCR field staff had reported that the refugees were in urgent need of help.

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The Security Council has warned the military authorities in Haiti that if the Governors Island Agreement is not fully implemented, it will consider additional measures beyond the recently reimposed oil and arms embargo. In a statement read out by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council called for the immediate departure of the Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces and the appointment of a new Commander of the police force, as required by the Agreement.

The Council condemned the acts of the military authorities who, it said, were continuing to violate and hamper the full implementation of the Governors Island Agreement by permitting the development of acts of violence. Reiterating its support for the legitimate Government of Haiti, the Council said it held the military authorities responsible for the security of members of that Government, of parliamentarians, and of United Nations personnel. It expressed support for the efforts of Special Representative Dante Caputo to put an end to the current crisis.

Earlier this month, the Council reimposed an oil and arms embargo against Haiti following the failure of the military authorities to comply with the Governors Island Agreement. It later called upon Member States, acting nationally or through regional arrangements, to ensure its strict implementation, in particular by halting and inspecting ships travelling towards the country.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali was expected to return to New York tonight after a two-day visit to the United Kingdom following his trip to Africa, according to a United Nations spokesman. During the day, the Secretary-General was received in audience by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, and had meetings with Prime Minister John Major and Opposition leader John Smith.

The Secretary-General also met with Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg and discussed the idea of convening a follow-up conference to the London Conference on the former Yugoslavia. The spokesman noted that such a conference would require "a long preparation", including approval by the parties involved, the European Community and the Security Council.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General, accompanied by Mr. Stoltenberg and Mr. Goulding, met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. Among the topics discussed were Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, Libya, Georgia and Afghanistan. They also discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia, and in particular the idea of a follow-up conference to the London Conference.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today, in a message to the General Assembly's high-level plenary meeting on combatting illicit drugs, that drug abuse was a global threat equal environmental damage, the AIDS pandemic, or poverty. "It is therefore our duty to respond to this threat with international solidarity," he stated. The message was delivered for him by Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as the Assembly began two days of meetings on the issue.

With the setting up in 1991 of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), he said, the international community had an effective means to reach its goals. UNDCP had identified new principles and strategic priorities which had gained the support of intergovernmental organs, particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Now the emphasis had to be on action, taking into account two key aspects: the speed with which the drug problem spread and the growing impatience of civil society, which lead to simplistic or defeatist solutions. That made it essential that the global community translate its commitment to fighting drugs into real action by a serious effort to mobilize the necessary resources worldwide.

General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) said that the international community's success in controlling drug abuse would be a litmus test of its ability to respond to the problems of the post-cold-war era. On one hand the global convergence of international society offered as much hope

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for peace as risk of conflict, but that also brought the world-wide spread of drug abuse, witnessed by the proliferation of illicit markets and the increasing prevalence of addiction.

At a time when all levels of society were in urgent need of capital, the illicit drug industry was a source of abundant capital and employment, he pointed out. Increasing foreign direct investment and privatization and the growth of developing country stock markets were positive changes, but they also provided new opportunities for drug trafficking syndicates and criminal organizations. The problem would continue to grow, he warned, unless illicit demand, supply and trafficking were tackled as inter-connected parts of a single global phenomenon.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed outrage at yesterday's attack on a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) relief convoy near the town of Novi Travnik in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. One Danish driver was killed and nine Dutch aid personnel were wounded when their trucks came under fire.

The Secretary-General has asked Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg to arrange for humanitarian convoys in central Bosnia and Herzegovina to be suspended until the incident has been investigated and credible guarantees of safe passage have been obtained from the warring parties.

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The General Assembly has proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal, and urged Member States to observe an "Olympic Truce" for a week before and after each of the Olympic Games. It took that action yesterday by adopting, without a vote, two resolutions on building a peaceful and better world through sport. Under the resolution on the Year of Sport, the Assembly invited full participation in the Year by States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system.

Also yesterday, the Assembly invited direct contributions to the University for Peace and to the Trust Fund for Peace, which was established to assist the University through voluntary contributions. In adopting a resolution on the subject, the Assembly invited Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace.

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